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January 24, 2007 MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

Bob Warren opened the meeting with introductions. MCA pointed out the anti-trust policy on page two of the meeting notice, and reminded members to read and abide by the policy.

MDT NEW BUSINESS

1. **Summary of Specification Revisions.** MDT advised that 20+ proposed specification revisions were in the process and no new revisions were sent out for comment in January. Those that are finalized will be sent to MCA in the next couple of weeks and will be effective with the March letting.
2. **Signs – Letters and Reflectivity.** Signs have been used on projects that do not follow the reflectivity requirements and the “Standard Highway Signs” requirements for proportions and spacing. MDT stated these requirements are in the specifications and MUTCD.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Failure to Execute Contract.** MDT discussed standard specification 103.08 that requires certain documentation to be submitted within 20 calendar days of receipt of the contract. MCA stated that at times it is difficult to get the subs information and insurance, particularly during the holidays. This item will be removed from the agenda.
2. **Force Account Basis – Bond.** MDT discussed the possibility of revising standard specification 109.04.2 (D), possibly putting a minimum limit on the bond that will be paid for force account work, or a time limit for submitting the paperwork. In many instances this can be \$10.00 or less and results in considerable time and effort in tracking down the paper work, usually when the project is being closed. A proposed revision will be out soon for comment.
3. **Piling Specification.** MCA asked MDT to look at the alignment requirement. MDT is looking at the all of the tolerances in the piling specification.
4. **Cold Weather Deck Pours.** MDT is using a cold weather special provision on several projects and is looking at making this a standard procedure and agrees that temperature not the date needs to be the controlling factor.
5. **A + B Bidding.** MCA stated this may be a safety issue due to the long hours for MDT employees when Contractors double shift. MDT is selective on the projects where it is used, and pointed out the benefits to the traveling public. In certain circumstances it is desirable to impact the traveling public for the shortest period possible. MDT internal audit is looking at the past A+B projects to determine if we are getting the desired benefits. The emphasis will be to “get in and get out” on many projects and will be looking at the use of Lane Rentals.
6. **Time Charged in Winter.** MCA believes there is non-uniformity in the application of this specification. MDT will look into clarifying this.
7. **Boring Information.** All of the information is available from Helena. Some of the older data is not electronic and in many instances dates back 50 years. It may be necessary to mail this information when requested if it is too voluminous to place in the bid package.
8. **Deck Sealer.** It is necessary to wait 28 days for the deck sealer, which is 14 additional days after the water cure. The time is taken into account when determining contract time. MDT

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will be looking at which decks need to be sealed.

9. RAP Volumetrics. MCA stated they are doubtful of the ability to produce RAP meeting tight volumetric requirements. MDT stated that it is possible with proper handling and processing and we will see more emphasis on using RAP. MCA submitted a couple of names to be on the committee working out the details. Others interested should contact Scott Barnes.

10. Asphalt Adjustment. MDT has made changes to the special provision, deleting the 180 day requirement and raising the maximum amount to \$250,000. MCA stated that deleting the 180 days was a step backward and should have been left in. MDT responded that the removal was at the request of MCA and the industry and we appear to be getting two different versions. MDT asked for written comments addressing the perceived problems

11. Sulfate Soundness, Micro-Deval. MDT explained the proposed process for using the Micro-deval test and then using sulfate soundness when the Micro-deval results fall into a questionable range. Micro-deval is the preferred test and solves two main problems; the repeatability and the turn-around time. MCA is worried about the lack of historical data for pits to indicate which sources are likely to pass the new test.

12. 2007 Engineering Conference. Will be held in Missoula February 6, 7, 8, and today (the 24th) is the last day to register. Registration is on-line at the MDT internet page.

13. Buy America. MDT is looking at the 5-day requirement.

NEW BUSINESS FROM MCA

1. Project Managers. MCA asked if MDT would list the proposed EPM for advertised projects. MDT stated that they will not be listed. This was done by the District and based on timing and scheduling, the EPM is not always determined at that time.

2. Plan Holders List. MCA asked if the list of Primes and Subs would again be available. MDT stated that the lists will not be posted, Primes may call and get the Subs names, and Subs may call and get the Primes.

The next meeting will be February 21, 2007, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the MCA Office.